

Commencement Bay South Tacoma Channel Tacoma Landfill, Tacoma, Washington

FACT SHEET



Operation Extension Requested

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

October 2009

The City of Tacoma has requested a third extension to operate the Tacoma Landfill through the year 2014. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Washington State Department of Ecology, and the Tacoma-Pierce County Health are currently evaluating the City's request and would like to hear your comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD — October 26, 2009 to November 25, 2009

The City of Tacoma asked that EPA and Ecology grant a third extension for operation of the 31-acre central portion of the Tacoma Landfill. This would allow the City to operate the landfill for another five years after the current closure deadline of December 31, 2009.

If approved, the City would be allowed to place solid waste in the central area until the end of 2014 on an emergency basis. The City's proposal can be found at the [information repositories](#) listed. It can also be reviewed on the EPA Web site. Follow this address: <http://tiny.cc/NWrSg> to locate the information.

PLEASE SEND WRITTEN COMMENTS OR REQUESTS by November 25, 2009 to

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Site Background

The 220-acre Tacoma Landfill is part of the Commencement Bay/South Tacoma Channel Superfund site. It was added to EPA's National Priorities List in 1983.

Located south of Highway 16 at the western edge of Tacoma, the site is just south of the intersection of South Mullen and South Center Streets.

During the mid-1980s, groundwater contamination (mainly volatile organic compounds) was detected near the site. Residents with contaminated wells were put on the City of Tacoma public water system. Landfill gas was detected in the soils of neighboring residential and business areas.

The cleanup consisted of constructing a landfill cap with leak detection systems, a system to pump and treat contaminated groundwater, a landfill gas management system, plus making operational improvements at the site and setting up monitoring systems for both groundwater and gas.

Five Year Reviews

Under Superfund law, five-year reviews must be performed to ensure that the cleanup remains protective of human health and the environment.

To-date, EPA has written three such reviews, the most recent was published in September 2008, and recommended a number of actions the City should take to improve the cleanup.

By September 2009, all of those actions were complete. The next review is scheduled for September of 2013. Documents related to the City's request to extend landfill operation through 2014 are available at the [information repositories](#) listed.

Information Repositories

Citizens for a Healthy Bay
917 Pacific Avenue, Suite 100
Tacoma, WA 98402
253-383-2429

US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 6th Avenue, Suite 900
7th Floor Records Center
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-4494



U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue, ETPA-081
Seattle, Washington 98101-1128

For More Information

CONTACT

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